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REACTION TO U.S. NUCLEAR TEST BLAST IN NEVADA

PRAVDA Correspondent's Report

PM241001 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[Unnamed "own correspondent" report: "A Brazen Challenge to the Peoples: The U.S. Administration Has Announced Its Intention to Carry Out a Nuclear Explosion at the Nevada Testing Ground"]

[Text] Washington, 22 Mar -- Openly mocking international public opinion and disregarding the demands of its own people, the U.S. Administration has announced its decision to conduct nuclear weapon tests on Saturday 22 March. An Energy Department spokesman announced that the explosion, codenamed Glencoe, will take place in the context of work to create a new warhead. It is noted that the yield of the explosion will be between 20 and 150 kilotons. With the aim of preventing panic among the population, the authorities have already told the residents of settlements located around the testing ground in Nevada about possible soil tremors.

That is the White House's answer to the Soviet Union's appeal to join its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, which has been in force since last August and has just been extended, in the spirit of good will, for as long as the United States refrains from conducting explosions. That is the White House's answer to the appeal of the six states and to the demand of many members of Congress and the American public to follow the USSR's example and declare a moratorium as a practical step toward curbing the arms race and to demonstrate common sense and political will.

Obviously the administration has different ideas about statesmanlike wisdom and responsibility to the world. Moreover, as if seeking to dispel any doubts on this score, it has even, as THE WASHINGTON POST indicates, specially speeded up its nuclear test program. Shifting the schedule for conducting the explosion from mid-April to the end of March, the White House decided in this way to "neutralize" public pressure in favor of the moratorium, which would have intensified still further over the coming month.

The administration's arrogant challenge to the widespread sentiments in support of the moratorium immediately gave rise to an outburst of indignation. A group of legislators sent an urgent letter to the White House calling for the test to be canceled. A press conference was held on Capitol Hill at which congressmen sharply criticized the decision on the explosion. Pointing out that a moratorium is an effective means of stopping the nuclear arms race, J. Wright, leader of the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, stated: "Nothing can be more important than to take steps together with the Soviet Union to lower the level of the horror which makes people throughout the world tremble with fear." In his words, by holding the tests the administration will show that it does not want to share the mutual responsibility for the case of peace. Congressman T. Downey noted that "if this explosion takes place, it will destroy any hope of containing the proliferation of nuclear weapons." The refusal to join in the moratorium "will jeopardize U.S. security," Congressman J. Leach said. D. Fascell, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, calling for the tests to be canceled, stressed: "Common sense and common interests demand a total ban on nuclear explosions."

As soon as the news of the forthcoming explosion became known, Senators, A. Cranston (Democrat, California) and M. Hatfield (Republican, Oregon) submitted a legislative proposal to refuse the administration funds for all nuclear weapons tests, similar to that already submitted for examination by the House of Representatives on the initiative of 84 congressmen. "I deeply regret the administration's unreasonable and rash decision to continue tests. A mutual Soviet-U.S. cessation of explosions would give us a real chance of doing at least something to stop the arms race," Cranston stated. In Hatfield's opinion not only has the administration rejected the USSR's invitation to join in the moratorium, but with this act it has indicated that it clearly prefers the creation of armaments to talks about peace." [quotemarks as published]

Senators J. Kerry and P. Simon supported the initiative of Cranston and Hatfield. In his statement Kerry noted that the White House is basically "ignoring not only the Soviet moratorium and the Soviet proposals to extend it, but also the clearly expressed will of Congress to seek a comprehensive test ban." Rejecting as totally unfounded the "arguments" put forward by the administration to justify its obstructionist stance, Kerry noted that the United States has carried out more nuclear tests than the USSR. Claims that a test ban is not verifiable are not true. Geophysicists have demonstrated that all nuclear explosions can be registered on equipment already available. The truth, the senator stressed, is that the administration is not agreeing to end nuclear tests because of its desire to implement the "star wars" program.

The American Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and the international organization Greenpeace have condemned the plans to carry out an explosion. Their statements assess this step by the White House as a deliberate attempt to undermine any chances of curbing the arms race.

The White House, however, has rejected all protests and appeals. Its spokesman launched into demagogic expatiations and made much of the "invitation to Soviet scientists personally to observe the explosion" in Nevada. There was no mention of postponing the test. It is certainly a shameful thing not to feel your own shame.

Kolesnichenko in PRAVDA

PM231745 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[Tomas Kolesnichenko "Commentary": "Protest Alarm"]

[Text] The nuclear explosion at the Nevada tests site has caused an answering explosion of protest in the hearts of many Americans and of millions of people throughout the world. The reactions published by PRAVDA today are only a small part of the growing avalanche of mass condemnation and anger now rolling across the countries and continents of our world.

Understandably so. This was not just a 150-kiloton explosion. It has undermined the hopes of people of good will for a life without the threat of the Damoclean sword of nuclear catastrophe hanging over mankind and the hopes for the limitations and ultimately the destruction of nuclear weapons.

The explosion in Nevada was not just another nuclear weapon test. It is primarily, a test of the will and the patience of people living on earth. It is an impudent, provocative challenge to them from the same position of strength that Washington has today raised to the status of a cult and made the foundation of U.S. foreign policy strategy.

The signal from Nevada has been recorded not just by the seismic stations. It has been clearly voted down by world public opinion. And there are no two opinions here: The United States is demonstratively rejecting the Soviet Union's proposal to join a moratorium on all nuclear explosions. This is despite the fact that the Soviet side has twice extended it and has supported the idea of using the international verification [kontrol] system -- in short, has removed all obstacles in the way of a reciprocal agreement on ending nuclear tests.

It cannot be said that no one in America can see how their own militarists have gone too far [zarvalis] in their plans. The House of Representatives adopted a special resolution calling for talks to be held with the Soviet Union on banning nuclear tests. Criticism of the Reagan administration's actions is growing among many public figures, senators, and experts. So why is official Washington rejecting all sensible arguments with high-and-mighty arrogance, and why is it ignoring public opinion both inside the country and throughout the world?

The official answer comes down to saying that "nuclear tests are necessary to be confident of maintaining the effectiveness of our deterrent arsenal and to be sure of the reliability and security of the U.S. arsenals." We can already catch here the "ring" of a present and future strategy of reliance on nuclear weapons and on expanding rather than reducing nuclear arsenals. But this is not the main point. Beneath the mask of "detering aggression" and of concern for the "security" of arsenals, the U.S. Administration is planning to launch [vyvod] strike weapons into space. It needs nuclear tests to provide for the "star wars" program. Thus the explosion in Nevada is one more link in the overall chain of plans for rolling forward the arms race on earth and extending it into outer space.

That is why an alarm bell of protest can be heard throughout the world. More and more people of different political convictions, religious faiths, and class adherence are today united in demanding that Washington's hand be stayed and that it not be permitted to wreck the Soviet nuclear moratorium, and it is necessary to be deaf not to heed that demand. Are nuclear tests to be or not to be? This question is now troubling all mankind.

But Washington will not succeed in sidestepping an answer. The bell tolls for it as well. It is no accident that Americans say that "He who God wishes to destroy [nakazat] He first makes angry."

Palladin in IZVESTIYA

PM241202 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 86 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Own correspondent A. Palladin report: "Yet Another Step Toward the Nuclear Abyss by Washington"]

[Text] Washington -- On Saturday at 1100 local time the United States carried out another nuclear explosion. Reagan spoke on national radio an hour later. The President again scared his countrymen with the "Soviet, Cuban, and Nicaraguan threat."

The nuclear explosion that shook the ground under Nevada seemed sinister. By carrying it out the Reagan administration was challenging all mankind, graphically demonstrating, in the words of Republican Senator M. Hatfield, that "it prefers creating new weapons systems to peace talks." That was how the White House responded to the calls of millions of inhabitants of our planet -- including Americans -- to join the Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests and thereby stop the arms race.

The explosion of a nuclear device in Nevada at the will of its organizers was reminiscent of the Hiroshima tragedy. The local press reports that the device was assembled in the very same Los Alamos laboratory where in 1945 the atom bomb intended for Hiroshima was "constructed," but the new device that was tested was tens of times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.

Attention is drawn to the flagrantly provocative nature of Saturday's explosion. "White House staffers," THE NEW YORK TIMES writes, citing local officials, "deemed it necessary not to postpone the test in order to hang tough by demonstrating their refusal to adopt Moscow's proposed moratorium." At the same time, THE WASHINGTON POST adds, the administration was counting on undercutting the expanding movement worldwide for the complete ending of nuclear explosions.

A challenge has also been issued to local legislators. The same M. Hatfield who only the day before along with Senator A. Cranston tabled a bill on freezing appropriations for U.S. nuclear tests for the duration of the Soviet moratorium, feels personally hurt. Nor did the White House reckon with the opinion of 63 congressmen who urged the President to at least hold back on explosions in Nevada. In response a Reagan administration spokesman mockingly stated that the test that had been held does "not revoke" the proposal that the USSR send its representatives to the Nevada test site to jointly observe subsequent explosions.

Pasko on Blast Decision

LD221507 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Vladimir Pasko commentary]

[Text] As we have already reported, the U.S. Department of Energy has announced that another nuclear explosion will be carried out today in the Nevada testing range. Here is our commentator Vladimir Pasko:

It is quite obvious that this announcement is more than just a simple intimation to the public of an imminent event, in essence it is an answer by a government body to the appeals resounding around the globe for the United States to join in the Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions. The Soviet Union's introduction of that moratorium on 6 August last year, its subsequent extension, and the statement that the Soviet Union would not carry out nuclear explosions after 31 March either until the United States' first nuclear blast, are specific and cogent confirmation of our country's sincere devotion to the idea of putting an end to the up-dating of nuclear weapons in order to move on to their reduction and, by the end of the century, to liberate the world from them entirely.

Even people in the habit of looking at the Soviet Union through the prism of bourgeois anticommunist propaganda see our initiative as a realistic way to liquidate the mass destruction weapons threatening the existence of all human civilization. At the government level alone, countries with a total population of over 1 billion people appealed to the United States to cease nuclear weapons testing. This demand was supported by the World Peace Council and by the international pacifist organization Greenpeace, and the issue of ending nuclear tests is at the center of attention of virtually all peoples including the American people. Reports are coming in from Washington of demonstrations demanding that the government join in the Soviet moratorium. A large group of legislators has made the same appeal. In a resolution adopted earlier, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress demanded that the government begin immediate talks with the Soviet Union on banning nuclear tests.

Those standing at the helm of the U.S. state policy, however, have no desire to hear anything. They are continuing to move along their previous dangerous course as if wearing blinders, justifying it with the aim of strengthening national security.

Thinking in obsolete terms, they simply cannot understand that in our age building security on the idea of military superiority -- particularly nuclear superiority -- is not only a vain cause but a dangerous one too; dangerous for everyone and dangerous for themselves.

Viewed as Response to Ban Call

LD231839 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Vladimir Pasko commentary]

[Text] And so the U.S. leadership has given its response to our proposal to stop nuclear weapons tests as a first step toward their subsequent reduction and elimination by the end of the century. A response has been given to the appeal by hundreds of millions of people throughout the world, including Americans, to join the USSR moratorium; an appeal which rang out in numerous messages to Washington from heads of state and government and parliaments of various countries and from international and national democratic organizations and movements. The White House has felt it unnecessary to heed their opinion, treating it with total scorn and throwing down a blatant and insolent challenge. World reaction to this was to be expected. But the question arises: How does Washington conceive the further development of events in the world? For by declining to stop improving its nuclear weapons the United States obliges others too to do the same and this can in no way lead to an improvement in the situation.

Spokesmen for the White House and the State Department maintain that in the existing conditions neither a moratorium nor a total and universal ban on nuclear tests will, they say, strengthen the cause of security, stability, or peace. But what on earth then, if one may ask, will strengthen them? Not U.S. military domination of the world, surely? For the fact is that the course currently being pursued by the United States is dictated by precisely that idea, which is permeated with the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative proposed by the White House -- the "star wars" program -- for which the present test was actually carried out. Yet it is completely obvious that military superiority, however alluring this idea might be for some, is not feasible. And this, incidentally, is being recognized by more and more people in the United States. Just yesterday the results of a poll among physicists was published: 83 percent of them said that the USSR is capable of developing [sozdat] an effective system to counter the "star wars" plans. And that's why, they say, the United States should not get involved in this venture.

Unfortunately, Washington officialdom is in no hurry to heed these warnings. But this is to no avail. Everyone knows that the nuclear age has brought substantial amendments to the concept of security. In the present day, security cannot be built to the detriment of others' security. It can be achieved only through the creation of universal security -- that is, security for all. In these conditions the idea of peaceful coexistence -- the idea defended by the USSR, the socialist countries, the developing states, and democratic organizations and movements in the West -- is more topical than ever. But Washington has up to now been reluctant to take this in, and is effectively sawing off the branch it is sitting on.

Sobolev Commentary

LD221955 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Vitaliy Sobolev commentary]

[Text] You will remember that the United States intended to carry out nuclear tests in April.

Suddenly, a new blast has been scheduled to take place earlier, before the term of the extension of the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions has expired. The demonstrative nature of this action is obvious: Regrettably, it is on a par with a whole series of others, designed to poison Soviet-U.S. relations and consequently the whole international atmosphere. One recalls the recent decision of the U.S. Government to reduce the numbers of the permanent missions of the USSR, Ukrainian and Belorussian SSR's at the United Nations. Or the violations by U.S. warships of the frontier of Soviet territorial waters off the shores of the Crimea. The Pentagon boasts that those ships are equipped with apparatus that can track anything that happens in the air, on water or under water, and that it is interested in the bases of the Soviet fleet at Sevastopol. In light of this, what is one to make of the White House and State Department assurances that the ships were merely availing themselves of the right of peaceful passage? How is it possible that the officials of the various American services got it wrong?

The deliberateness of all these -- to put it mildly -- unfriendly actions has been pointed out by the press in the United States itself. A great many Americans have been following the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva with enthusiasm and hope; but evidently there are others for whom the spirit of Geneva is unsympathetic, and one cannot but believe that their effect on the decisions of the Washington leadership is being felt more and more noticeably. That is evidently the explanation for the fact that the new nuclear blast is being carried out in such haste. Perhaps the White House has taken fright that the appeal of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to the U.S. Congress to stop nuclear tests may have an effect? We have already heard that many American legislators have expressed a high opinion of the Soviet initiative. First, the cessation of all nuclear explosions till the end of this year, then the extension of the moratorium till 31 March and finally, the decision not to resume tests after that date until the first U.S. nuclear explosion.

Both in Congress and in public circles in the United States, that initiative has been called a unique opportunity; and most of the states of the world are demanding that this opportunity should be realized. All mankind is making the same demand.

Reaction in U.S. Cited

LD231457 Moscow TASS in English 1439 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 23 TASS -- The new nuclear test conducted by the United States, Washington's demonstrative refusal to join in the moratorium on nuclear explosions announced by the Soviet Union, have touched off a wave of indignation and criticism in the USA and outside it.

The nuclear blast, the CBS television company said, has set off a political quake in Washington. The television quotes Senator Mark Hatfield as saying that he did not know by what the American authorities are guided, but he was sure of one thing that the testing would not draw the world closer to peace, but, on the contrary, bring it closer to war.

Experts, the CBS stresses, point out that the conducted test closes the way to a real opportunity to make progress in curbing the arms race.

The ABC television company quoted 63 U.S. congressmen as urging President Reagan to cancel the test. James C. Wright, Democratic majority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, said in an ABC interview that most of the congressmen hoped that they would be able to keep the door to peace open. For eight long months the Soviet Union adhered to the moratorium on nuclear explosions it introduced.

Berkley Bedell, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, described as a tremendous disappointment the fact that the President refuses point-blank to heed the calls ringing out all over the world for halting that terrible arms race. The congressman stressed that by its actions the Reagan administration was pushing the country and the whole world towards a nuclear catastrophe.

The newspaper WASHINGTON POST stresses that the USA has demonstrated its disregard for Moscow's proposals by conducting an underground nuclear test. The newspaper also quotes a spokesman for the U.S. State Department as saying that the American nuclear tests will continue. Under the existing conditions, the spokesman for the U.S. State Department demagogically claimed, neither a moratorium nor a complete and general ban on nuclear testing will strengthen security, stability or peace.

Retired Rear-Admiral Gene Larocque, director of the Washington-based Centre for Defence Information, called the Nevada test as a new step on the dangerous path of preparations for nuclear war. The Nevada blast, he pointed out, is evidence that the Reagan administration has not even the slightest intention to reach agreement on a ban on nuclear testing, to say nothing of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The fact that the nuclear test was conducted contrary to the demand of the House of Representatives and many members of the U.S. Senate for an immediate resumption of talks with the Soviet Union on complete and general testing of nuclear weapons is telltale proof that the Reagan administration is bent on speeding up work for the implementation of its nuclear programmes.

Michael Gruder, a spokesman for the American anti-war organisation Columbus Campaign for Arms Control, described the latest nuclear test in the USA as an irresponsible and provocative step. This is a policy of torpedoing the moratorium on all nuclear explosions, which was unilaterally announced by the Soviet Union, he said. The Soviet proposals aimed at complete and general ban on nuclear testing, are opening up a real opportunity to strengthen peace and security, he stressed, whereas the U.S. Administration is bent on continuing the nuclear weapons race.

Blast Termed 'Very Serious' Action

LD231753 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1458 GMT 23 Mar 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] Of course, one must mention a prominent event which took place a few days ago -- the Warsaw Pact member states Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting. This was no routine event if only because it took place immediately after the 27th CPSU Congress. It was also not routine because it occurred at a responsible and serious time in the development of international events; at a time when the U.S. policy and actions have aroused many questions in international affairs.

I mean, first and foremost, U.S. actions such as the White House attitude to the well-known initiative by the six states linked with halting nuclear testing. The USSR replied affirmatively to the appeal by the six states and in point of fact accepted the theses of this appeal. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has stated quite clearly that the USSR, which in any case has already not been conducting any nuclear tests in the framework of its unilateral moratorium for over 7 months, will not carry out such tests until such time as the Americans carry out the next nuclear explosion. The United States has replied with its habitual, categorical no, moreover, it intends to detonate a new nuclear warhead in March -- if it has not done so already -- and has planned to stage another nuclear weapons test in April. This, of course, is very serious, this is very serious.

FURTHER REACTION TO U.S. EXERCISES OFF LIBYA

'Provocative' Maneuvers Resume

LD230714 Moscow TASS in English 0650 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 23 TASS -- The United States today resumed provocative military manoeuvres off the coasts of Libya.

The Pentagon issued a notification that carrier-based planes of the U.S. 6th Fleet were starting flights off the Libyan coast in the region serviced by Tripoli airport's air-traffic controllers. The air force exercise will continue till April 1.

A powerful naval battle group led by the aircraft-carriers Coral Sea, America and Saratoga has been concentrated in the southern Mediterranean. The vessels are carrying 240 combat planes.

U.S. 'State Terrorism' Decried

PM241028 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 Second Edition p 5

[A. Golts article: "Threat Off Libya's Coast; Aircraft Carrier Terrorism"]

[Text] What weapons do terrorists prefer? Submachine guns? Grenades? Plastic explosives? Yes, if they are individual terrorists. Other tools are used by those who have elevated terrorism to the status of state policy. They implement their criminal actions with the help of Marines and aircraft carriers.

Alarming news is coming in from the Mediterranean. An entire U.S. Navy armada has concentrated there: The aircraft carriers America, Coral Sea, and Saratoga, together with other ships, making a total of over 40. According to NBC-TV, they include the missile cruiser Yorktown and the destroyer Caron, the very ships that recently intruded into Soviet territorial waters. What has been embarked upon is yet another stage of intimidation of sovereign Libya, whose independent policy is causing undisguised annoyance in the White House. Citing U.S. Administration spokesmen, THE WASHINGTON POST reported that "President Reagan has approved the movement of ships in the Mediterranean as a mass demonstration of force."

This is not the first time that the Pentagon has been openly engaging in provocative militarist demonstrations off the Libyan coast. During the latest maneuvers, which are unprecedented in scale, deck aviation aircraft -- both ground-attack and fighter aircraft -- are flying missions while the ships are cruising in the immediate vicinity of the borders of Libyan air space and territorial waters. The objective is obvious. "The Pentagon," the well-informed U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK points out, "is counting on using constant military pressure to provoke Libya into taking countermeasures. This would give Washington a pretext for direct armed intervention." It cannot be put any more clearly.

By carrying out these sinister militarist actions the United States has yet again exposed itself as the most blatant champion of the policy of state terrorism.

Shultz Defends 'Blackmail'

LE212008 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Referring to official representatives of the U.S. Administration, THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper has reported that President Reagan has approved the movement of ships in the Mediterranean Sea as a massed demonstration of strength. The paper points out that such actions could lead to a serious incident. The maneuvers taking place now, in the words of THE WASHINGTON POST, were planned as the biggest attempt to implement gunboat diplomacy since Reagan came to power. High-ranking American official representatives in their statements do not conceal the fact that the show of military muscle off the coast of Libya are in their way a claim on Washington's right to blackmail sovereign states. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz impudently stated that the United States intend to assert the right of its fleet to be in certain waters. Moreover the Washington administration, with an imperial disdain, are ignoring the laws of those countries, against which the Pentagon is spearheading its provocations.

Weinberger Cited on Maneuvers

LD240728 Moscow TASS in English 0615 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 23 TASS -- Since 1981 the United States has eighteen times held exercises in close proximity to Libya's territory. A statement to this effect was made by Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of defence, in the NBC television programme "Meeting the Press" on Sunday. He also pointed out that over that period the U.S. naval and airforce units had seven times crossed the border of the Sidra Gulf. As is known, a U.S. naval armada is now engaged in a new large-scale demonstration of military power in the Mediterranean in an attempt at intimidating Libya and making her give up her independent foreign policy.

U.S. 'Policy of Force' Assailed

LD211633 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1324 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 21 Mar (TASS) -- Political observer Boris Shabayev writes:

U.S. fleet maneuvers of an unprecedented scale are taking place off the shores of Libya with the simultaneous participation of three attack aircraft carriers and their planes. This is already the fourth demonstration of force in recent months aimed against this Mediterranean country. In order to deflect any provocation by the U.S. military the Armed Forces of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah have been placed on a state of enhanced military readiness.

The largest detachment of U.S. naval forces led by the nuclear aircraft carrier Enterprise has only just left the Pakistani port of Karachi. The increase in U.S. militaristic activity directly off the shores of India emphasized in parliament, evokes great concern in Delhi. This concern was brought by official channels to the attention of both Washington and Islamabad.

The U.S. battleship Iowa has left its base and is heading for the shores of Nicaragua with the same provocative aim of building up the atmosphere of military hysteria surrounding that country.

In the Black Sea two U.S. war ships crudely violated the USSR state border and approached the Soviet shore. As the U.S. press reports, the order to carry out such a demonstrative and provocative action that could have the most serious consequences, was sanctioned by the U.S. Defense Department.

How is one to assess these actions by Washington? Have they fully realized there that the world today is too small and fragile for the policy of force and that, in the current military political pressures [peregruzka] in our common home on earth, any provocation could turn out to be fateful for the whole of humanity?

For, in modern conditions, new political thinking and enhanced awareness of one's responsibility for the fate of the peoples are more important than ever before in order to prevent a slide into the abyss of nuclear catastrophe. And in the first instance, restrained and circumspect conduct in the international arena is required of the two powers that possess the greatest nuclear might -- the USSR and the United States. The world hears many statements emerging from Washington about adherence to the cause of peace. There is also no lack of appeals for "restraint" [sderzhannost], but for some reason they are only being addressed to one side -- the Soviet Union and its resolve to strive in the international arena for a fundamental turning from the arms race towards disarmament, from confrontation to a peaceful proper coexistence.

The aims and tasks of Soviet foreign policy are outlined with all clarity and certainty by the 27th CPSU Congress, which has just taken place. To judge from Washington's actions, they are continuing there, against the voice of reason, to adhere to different guiding lines and correspondingly laying the course of their warships.

Soviet Diplomat's Warning

LD231836 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, Rajab 12, March 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWSAGENCY -- The first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington warned the American Administration against any act of aggression or terrorism against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Damascus radio quoted the Soviet official as saying that the USSR would stand idly by [as received] but it would respond to any aggression against Jamahiriya by American imperialism.

FURTHER COMMENTARY ON CONTRA AID VOTE

PRAVDA Article

PM212010 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[PRAVDA own correspondent V. Gan report: "Pressure Didn't Work"]

[Text] Washington, 21 Mar -- Political emotions have reached the boiling point on the Potomac today. Their epicenter was the U.S. House of Representatives, which voted on the administration demand for the appropriation of \$100 million in military and financial aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. In an atmosphere utterly electrified by blackmail and intimidation by the White House, a majority of legislators, nevertheless, retained their sense of realism. The House rejected by 222 votes to 210 the program for supporting the "contras," essentially passing a vote of no confidence in Washington's interventionist policy in Central America.

The results of the vote are unanimously regarded here as a major defeat for President R. Reagan, whose personally headed campaign to pressure Congress was of rare intensity and unsavory methods. Under his leadership, high-ranking representatives of the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon, and the CIA openly "strong-armed" congressmen, whom they intimidated with talk of a "communist takeover" of the United States. Those who disagree with the escalation of the U.S. attempts to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinist government were defamed via the press, radio, and television and were threatened with "political bankruptcy" and charges of "un-American activity." Indeed, neo-McCarthyism was the main element in the tactics of the administration, which from the outset put the "question point-blank": The legislators "vote either for Reagan or for communism."

Appropriate "arguments" were picked to suit this farfetched postulate and, if they testified to anything at all, they testified to the White House's lack of respect for U.S. congressmen and their ability to think for themselves. Absolutely every anti-Soviet falsehood, slander, and fabrication was dredged up. "The whole aim was to scare America," THE WASHINGTON POST wrote. Indeed: What other assessment can be made of the statements made in all seriousness that the USSR intends to deploy its nuclear missiles in Nicaragua?

The lie was so self-evident and the facts were so farfetched that they naturally did not hold water. Incidentally, even press organs sympathetic to the administration were forced to admit this. Nevertheless, it took a certain measure of courage on the legislators' part to withstand the absurd insinuations. A considerable role was also played by the need to consider the sentiments of Americans, the majority of whom, according to public opinion polls, do not support Washington's aggressive course in Central America and the country's participation in armed actions abroad.

And these are precisely the consequences with which the administration's desire to establish "American-style democracy" in Nicaragua through the agency of the CIA-led "contras" is fraught, many congressmen believe. As House Speaker T. O'Neill declared, the White House's policy is pushing the United States along a dangerous path that may lead to the use of U.S. troops in Nicaragua. "I can clearly see this leading to war. I can clearly see the quagmire ahead," he said. Representative L. Hamilton from Indiana noted that the White House's actions have prompted protests both from Americans and from U.S. allies. "Nicaragua is prepared to hold talks with its neighbors, which are seriously concerned about the administration's policy and don't want the United States to launch an armed intervention in the region," Representative M. Barnes (Democrat, Maryland) stressed.

What lessons has the administration learned from the results of the vote? Virtually none. Calling them a "dismal day for freedom," White House spokesman L. Speakes still pressed for the granting of aid to the "contras" on the same old "pretext" that "the Soviet Union cannot be allowed to ensure that Nicaragua goes over to the Soviet camp forever." He reaffirmed "the President's solemn determination to seek the approval of the aid over and over again until the battle is won." But, as is well known, the notorious \$100 million was to "supplement" the sizable aid that the United States has already given to the bandits via CIA channels and so-called "private funds."

In other words, the administration is not even thinking of abandoning its gangsterist course toward a sovereign state upholding its right to choose its course of development independently. That is especially as the demand for support for the "contras" will now be examined in the Senate, where the Republican Party has a majority and the White House is expected to prevail. Moreover, the House of Representatives has agreed to discuss "alternatives" for aiding the bandits in mid-April. Thus there should be no talk of the final failure of the administration's attempts to drag the country into an anti-Nicaraguan adventure.

At any rate the very sharp debates on Capitol Hill have cogently demonstrated that Washington that Washington prefers fist law to the rule of law and the right to diktat to the right to independence and autonomy. It is still refusing to realize that, by stubbornly failing to recognize the realities of the modern world, the U.S. leaders may very well open up a "Pandora's box" for their country.

Reagan Suffers 'Major Defeat'

LD21k826 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 21 Mar 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Fesunenکو]

[Text] The foreign press has unanimously named as the main news of the last 24 hours the House of Representative's decision which rejected Reagan's demand for the allocation of \$100 billion to the Nicaraguan contras in the form of direct military aid. UPI described this event as a major defeat for the President. I think that there is no hint of exaggeration here. In 6 years of Reagan's period in office there has probably been no other problem, no other issue, to which he had devoted so much personal effort and energy, as he has to the task of persuading congressmen in recent weeks and days. Literally all of the President's speeches, his meetings with the press, his official and unofficial statements, all came down to a single unfortunately repeated formula — Carthage, that is, the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua, must be destroyed, so give me \$100 million to bring it down.

In seeking this the President risked his prestige and authority, all his well-trying aptitude for persuading those who disagree and deluding the hesitant. At the last minute he cast a pathetic appeal at ordinary Americans: Call your congressmen and persuade them to support me. But alas, the result was an embarrassment. According to many congressmen, there were indeed such telephone calls, but in most cases the Americans asked the members of congress to turn down the President's demands.

So Reagan has suffered a serious defeat, but let us not lapse into euphoria. For all its undoubted political and propagandistic importance, the current failure of the White House by no means indicates and end to Washington's pressure on Nicaragua and will not lead to the ending of the criminal war against that country. This was stated by Daniel Ortega at a press conference in Managua. In his quite justified opinion, the Reagan administration is possessed by a literally maniacal desire to smother the Sandinist popular revolution and to restore in Nicaragua a dictatorial regime similar to the one that reigned there under the American appointee Somoza.

And as if to confirm this assessment of the situation, President Reagan just a few hours ago expressed profound dissatisfaction with the House of Representatives' negative decision. A statement by the head of the administration published by the White House and read out by a White House Representative speaks of Washington's firm intention to seek as before real and effective aid for the bands of counterrevolutionaries; the campaign of pressure on Congress is being stepped up, in particular. The thing is that in the next few days there will be a vote on the administration's request in the Senate, where the majority, as you know, belongs to members of the Republican Party. Reagan is evidently hoping for revenge there. In addition, in the middle of April, there will be a vote in the House of Representatives, too, on a whole series of alternative options for rendering support to the terrorist anti-Nicaraguan bands.

Reagan's 'Fantasies' Viewed

LD232008 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1458 GMT 23 Mar 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] I would like to remind you that last fall, on the eve of the Geneva summit, President Reagan addressed the UN General Assembly. He spoke a great deal then about the danger of regional conflicts, and his speech also contained certain words about the need for a restrained attitude to these regional conflicts. To judge by Washington's own actions, however, all these homilies are addressed to others and not to the United States at all. Rules of conduct are prescribed to others.

Just the other day, the President appeared before American television viewers and disclosed somewhat curious fantasies. I would like to share these fantasies with you. This is what Ronald Reagan said: Using Nicaragua as a base, the Soviet Union and Cuba could become the dominating forces in the extremely important corridor between the North and South Americas. Consolidating themselves there, they will have the possibility of threatening the Panama Canal, impeding the movement of shipping along our vitally important sea routes in the Caribbean basin and, in the final analysis, of coming out against Mexico. If this happens, the people of Latin America will in their millions move in desperation northward to the towns of the southern United States. That was what he said. What sinister fantasies!

But even U.S. congressmen did not believe the President's terrifying fairytales, and voted against allocating \$100 million in aid for the contras. I fear, however, that the White House will not calm down, but will strive to get its own way.

If one examines Soviet-American relations themselves, we find that in spite of a certain revival of contacts after Geneva, strange incidents have been accumulating in Soviet-American relations. A U.S. Embassy official engages in espionage in Moscow, and the Soviet authorities are obliged to declare him persona non grata. Two U.S. Navy ships violate the territorial waters of the Soviet Union and pass near the Crimea right through Soviet territorial waters. Further, the U.S. Administration demands that the Soviet Union should make a sharp 40 percent cut in the Soviet staff at the UN Organization.

It could, of course, be said that this is a chain of chance incidents. But I think that everything we have been talking about forms no accidental chain. For a possible new meeting at summit level is marked on the 1986 political calendar, albeit conditionally for the time being. I have in mind the Soviet-American summit meeting. And in the light of these events, we can rightly say that in the United States there is an evident increase in activity by forces that have absolutely no interest in any improvement at all in Soviet-American relations, and which bow down before the old political idol of confrontation, whipping up tension and the policy of strength [silovaya politika]. But this policy of strength is battering the United States itself, in the final analysis. It is, first and foremost, depriving America which pays for it.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON ARKHIPOV VISIT TO BEIJING

Comparison of Arkhipov-Zhao Meeting

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 20 March carries in its Morning Edition on page 4 a TASS report on the 18 March meeting in Beijing between Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Zhao Ziyang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party and premier of the State Council of the Chinese People's Republic. The IZVESTIYA report entitled "Talk Held," has been compared with the Moscow TASS English version published in the 19 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page B 1, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, IZVESTIYA omits passage from line one... Member of the... through line two...Chinese Communist Party...and line three omits...in Zhongnanhai....

Last paragraph, lines two and three, IZVESTIYA omits...worked out at the 27th CPSU Congress....

Last paragraph, last line, IZVESTIYA reads...in this sphere.

Taking part in the meeting were: On the Chinese side Li Peng, member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat and vice premier of the PRC State Council, and Qian Qichen, PRC vice minister of foreign affairs; and on the Soviet side G.K. Zhuravlev, USSR first deputy minister of foreign trade, and I.A. Rogachev, member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium. (supplying additional paragraph)

Visit Ends; Protocol Signed

OW221143 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, concluded his visit to China on 21 March. He led a Soviet delegation to the first session of the Soviet-Chinese Commission on Economic, Trade, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation. A protocol on the results of the meeting was signed on Friday.

Sherbakov, USSR ambassador to China, gave a luncheon for the Soviet delegation; Li Peng, vice premier of China's State Council, attended. At the luncheon, Arkhipov said that the results of the commission's work clearly show the interests of both sides in further expanding economic, trade, and scientific and technological relations. He said that Soviet-Chinese cooperation has great potential and is absolutely beneficial to the peoples and for economic development of the two countries.

Li Peng expressed satisfaction with the results of the first session of the Soviet-Chinese Commission on Economic, Trade, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation. He also expressed the wish to constantly promote cooperation and relations between the two sides.

The second session of the commission will be held in Moscow in May or June 1987.

Details of Protocol

PM241303 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Protocol Signed"]

[Text] The first session of the Soviet-Chinese Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation ended here today. A protocol was signed on its results.

It says that the commission noted with satisfaction the constant development of trade and economic relations between the two countries in recent years. The volume of Soviet-Chinese trade rose in 1985 by some 60 percent over the previous year, and the range of goods supplied in each direction widened.

The commission examined the possibilities of broadening bilateral cooperation in the construction and reconstruction of industrial plants in the PRC, and approved measures for the integrated resolution of questions of transporting foreign trade cargo by rail, sea, river, and motor transport in the period 1986-1990.

The sides examined the prospects for Soviet-Chinese scientific and technical cooperation, noting the presence of considerable reserves in this sphere. They pointed to the need to regulate cooperation in the field of planned activities and to further expand cooperation in the field of education, civil aviation, and the exchange of exhibitions in the period up to the year 1990.

The leader of the Soviet delegation was received by Wan Li, vice premier of the PRC State Council.

The commission's work passed in a friendly and businesslike atmosphere. The second session of the commission will take place in Moscow in May-June 1987. The protocol of the session was signed by Ivan Arkhipov, chairman of the Soviet side of the commission and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Li Peng, chairman of the Chinese side of the commission and vice premier of the PRC State Council.

Also today the Soviet delegation left Beijing for home. They were seen off at the airport by Li Peng, Qian Qichen, vice minister of foreign affairs of the PRC; and other officials.

Arkhipov Satisfied With Talks

OW230134 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1200 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Arkhipov, first deputy head of the Soviet Government, expressed satisfaction with the results of the first meeting of the Soviet-China Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation in Beijing. In a statement prior to his departure from the Chinese capital, he said: The results of the meeting prove that both sides wish to further expand the ties in these fields so as to enhance the mutual understanding and trust of our two socialist neighboring countries. The protocol signed at the end of the meeting shows a considerable increase in the trade volume between the Soviet Union and China.

NUCLEAR EXPERTS INVITED TO USSR

OW241259 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Beijing, March 24 KYODO -- Soviet First Deputy Premier Ivan V. Arkhipov has invited China to send a team of experts to the Soviet Union to survey Soviet nuclear power generation facilities, an Eastern bloc diplomatic source here disclosed Monday. Arkhipov offered the invitation during the first China-Soviet committee meeting on economy, trade and techno-scientific cooperation, held here in mid-March, the source said. The Chinese side promised to study the invitation, the source added.

During the Beijing meeting, Arkhipov briefed Chinese leaders about the Soviet economic policy adopted at the latest Soviet party congress. The briefings were made at the request of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the source said. According to the source, Arkhipov told the Chinese that Sino-Soviet cooperation in energy development can include nuclear power generation and invited China to dispatch the experts' team to the Soviet Union as an initial step in such cooperation.

During the Beijing talks, both sides agreed on the construction of two new railway systems linking the Soviet Union and China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, in addition to the existing three railways linking the two countries in the Far Eastern and Mongolian areas, the source said. The source predicted Moscow will provide technology and equipment in the new railway projects while China will help with manpower. The agreement on the railway projects is believed to be based on bilateral talks when Li Senmao, China's vice minister of railways, and others visited the Soviet Union last year.

During the mid-March meeting here, the two sides also agreed to expand bilateral shipping and establish shipping representatives' offices in Shanghai and Odessa, respectively, the source said. Agreement was also reached to increase mutual exchanges of students, and Moscow agreed to help train Chinese industrial experts in the Soviet Union, the source said. At present, 200 Chinese students are studying in the Soviet Union, with a similar number of Soviet students in China.

Delegation Returns to Moscow

LD211831 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1815 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 21 Mar (TASS) — The Soviet delegation headed by Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, returned today to Moscow from Beijing after the ending of the first session of the Soviet-Chinese Commission on Economic, Trade, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

Significance of Visit Viewed

LD231726 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1458 GMT 23 Mar 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] Of course, among notable events one cannot fail to mention the first meeting of the USSR-PRC Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation. During the visit to Beijing by Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, an agreement was reached on substantial expansion of our mutual economic links with China.

I would like to remark in general that the state of USSR-PRC relations is a very substantial element in the whole world political climate. Good interaction [vzaymodeystiye] between the two great socialist countries -- not just in the economy, not just in the scientific-technical sphere, but also in politics -- would be of colossal significance for consolidating peace.

SOVIET-DPRK COOPERATION COMMISSION MEETS 17-21 MAR

LD221201 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0630 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] The 20th session of the Soviet-Korean Intergovernmental Consultative Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Issues was held in Pyongyang 17-21 March. The meeting examined issues connected with the fulfillment of the two sides' mutual obligations in the field of trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. They discussed prospects for the development of trade and economic cooperation between the USSR and the DPRK in the period 1986-90. The commission took concrete decisions aimed at implementing the two sides' accords on questions of the further development of trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

'NEW' S. KOREAN ATTITUDE ON DISSIDENTS 'TEMPORARY'

OW140632 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Commentary by Sergey Alekseyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Hello, comrades. In the degree and scope of cruelty with which he usually deals with dissidents, Chon Tu-hwan, the current president of South Korea, differs little -- as is well known, from the most odious dictators of the world. And suddenly there is news from South Korea that Western observers have hailed as sensational and in which they have hurriedly perceived an indication of transition by the South Korean Government from a position of hostility and irreconcilability toward political opponents to a new position of liberalism.

Chon Tu-hwan invited leaders of South Korea's two main opposition parties to the Presidential Palace for lunch and in his talk admitted that government measures against the opposition forces have been excessively harsh and that from now on the police will no longer persecute participants of meetings and demonstrations or arrest supporters of constitutional reform in South Korea. To confirm this, he released Kim Tae-chung, an opposition leader, on the same day.

In the West, this change in the behavior of Chon Tu-hwan is interpreted in different ways. The main version is that the president has been influenced by events in the Philippines and he fears they will be repeated in South Korea. But in this connection, recall the statement by Henry Kissinger, the former ideologue of previous U.S. Administrations, who said in 1975, after the fall of the pro-U.S. puppet government of South Vietnam: For whatever reason, we must not repeat the Vietnam mistake in Korea.

And indeed, for all these years, Chon Tu-hwan has been receiving unprecedented military and economic aid from the United States. Here is the largest U.S. military presence in Asia, and high U.S. officials constantly advise and exhort the South Korean dictator. Besides, in a few days, U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger will visit South Korea for the regular U.S.-South Korea consultative conference. It seems that Chon Tu-hwan's metamorphosis, so to speak, is timed precisely for the visit. One must assume that his flirtation with the opposition is a temporary phenomenon.

KARMAL SPEECH ON AFGHAN NEW YEAR CITED

LD211438 Moscow TASS in English 1310 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul March 21 TASS -- The past year was a year of remarkable events, a year of a considerable headway in the political, economic and cultural life of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, said Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA). He delivered a speech on the occasion of the beginning of the new Afghan year.

Loya Jirgah, the high jirgah of frontier tribes, the opening of elections to local government and management bodies, the events to extend and foster the social base of the April Revolution are the main milestones of the past year, he stressed.

The holding of jirgahs demonstrated that the progressive transformations in the DRA are supported by the whole people. The elections of municipal authorities which have already been held in a number of provinces in the situation of freedom and with the participation of the mass of the working people, serve the purpose of a further democratization of the societal and political life in Afghanistan. The composition of the state's guiding bodies, the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers of the DRA was extended through the involvement of non-party people. The draft constitution of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was put to nationwide debate. The year also saw the elaboration of the country's first ever five-year plan of the social and economic development of the DRA. These major events, the DRA leader said, serve to rally the people round the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and are an earnest of the successful development of the national-democratic revolution.

All these undisputable successes, Karmal said, were scored in conditions when the undeclared war is being waged against our people, a war which was unleashed by international imperialism and reaction. Last year saw a number of crushing blows against the forces of the Afghan counter-revolution. We strive for peace and security to be ensured in our country, the DRA leader said. He urged all Afghans both in Afghanistan and those who found themselves abroad to take an active part in the fight against the counter-revolution.

Karmal recalled the constructive initiatives advanced by the DRA with a view to normalizing the situation in Afghanistan and on its borders and stressed that Democratic Afghanistan would continue doing everything in its power for the settlement of relations with neighboring countries. The Afghan leader called on the Governments of Iran and Pakistan to follow the example of the DRA and make their contribution to the cause of ensuring peace and security in the region.

Tension generated by imperialism's aggressive policy is preserved in the world at present, Karmal said. The runaway arms race and the stockpiling of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction have put the world under threat of extinction. The elimination of all stockpiles of nuclear weapons is the sole way out of the existing situation. Each state should make its contribution to creating an atmosphere of stability, peaceful co-existence and cooperation, Karmal said.

TRANSPORT TROOPS IN DRA FULFILL PLEDGES

PM131602 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 86 Second Edition p 1

[Major V. Poddelkov report: "Above the Plan"]

[Text] Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan -- the transport battalion commanded by Major V. Didyk is successfully fulfilling its adopted pledges. Hundreds of metric tons of national economic freight above the plan target have been delivered to remote regions of the DRA. The competition is led by the personnel of the transport company under the command of Captain V. Litvinov.

Advanced experience, as the 27th CPSU Congress noted, contains considerable reserves for growth. That is the basis on which the battalion operates. Socialist competition trendsetters were recently honored here.

The experience of Capt Litvinov and his subordinates in the efficient utilization of truck carrying capacities and the saving of fuels and lubricants have been generalized and is producing a considerable effect.

DEMICHEV RETURNS FROM INDIAN PARTY CONGRESS

LD211424 Moscow TASS in English 1401 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS -- A CPSU delegation headed by alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Culture of the USSR Petr Demichev returned to Moscow from Delhi today. It took part in the work of the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of India, that was held in Patna, Bihar State, on March 12-17.

At the airport in Moscow the delegation was greeted by alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Nikolay Talyzin and other officials.

ZIAUL HAQ CALLS FOR 'MORAL PRESSURE' ON USSR

LD171748 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- By TASS political analyst Boris Shabayev:

In an interview to the British television, Pakistan's president called for bringing moral pressure on the Soviet Union to compel it to settle the Afghan border problem in a peaceful way. It could be simply said that Ziaul Haq places the blame at the wrong door, but one should consider the fact that in the world of so-called freedom of information, the truth about the situation in Afghanistan and around it is submerged by torrents of lies and slander, so somebody can believe the sincerity of the head of the Islamabad regime.

Ziaul Haq wishes to present the matters in such a way as if the presence of a limited contingent of Soviet forces in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is a reason behind the aggravation of the situation around that country. It should be recalled that the contingent was brought into Afghanistan's territory in December 1979. For what purpose? The answer to this question can be found in documents and materials published in the West.

In his book "Washington's Secret War Against Afghanistan," American publicist Phillip Bonosky writes that the CIA's activity against the revolutionary movement in Afghanistan started long before the 1978 April Revolution. The COUNTERSPY journal writes that in 1977 the CIA concentrated its attention on Afghanistan and set up its office in Pakistan from which it was much simpler to stage operations against Afghanistan. Prominent British historian Andrew Rothstein emphasised that the conspiracy against the Afghan revolution was launched immediately after April 1978.

In January 1979 FRANCE PRESSE news agency reported that military camps for the training of rebels were set up in Pakistan and that the rebels were waging a veritable war against Afghanistan. The number of such camps and training centres in Pakistan surpassed 80 by November, 1979. Phillip Bonosky writes in his book that counter-revolutionary groups were operating in 18 out of Afghanistan's 26 provinces in December 1979. They were getting arms and funds from abroad and had a reliable base in Pakistan.

It was then, threatened with direct foreign intervention, that the sovereign Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, guiding itself by Article 51 of the United Nations Charter turned for assistance to the Soviet Union. A limited contingent of Soviet troops was temporarily deployed in Afghanistan in accordance with the Afghan-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Goodneighborliness and Cooperation. Temporarily means that until outside armed interference is stopped and reliable guarantees of its non-resumption are ensured.

And outside intervention means above all intervention from Pakistan where some 300 bandit centres of Afghan counter-revolution have been set up. The United States and its allies in the undeclared war have contributed over 1.5 billion dollars for the financing of subversive operations of Afghan counter-revolution in the DRA in the past five years. It is a pity that a correspondent of the British television has not asked Pakistan's president what part of this sum lined the pockets of persons holding power in Islamabad. In any case, Islamabad asks six billion dollars for its services in the struggle against sovereign Afghanistan, also for its stubborn efforts to block the reaching of arrangements at the talks on the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, the talks conducted with the United Nations mediation.

So who is really to blame for the fact that the Afghan problem is not resolved?

SOLOMENTSEV, DELEGATION DEPART FOR CPCZ CONGRESS

Delegation Seen Off

LD231043 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Texg] A CPSU delegation, led by Comrade Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Party Control Committee at the CPSU Central Committee left Moscow today for Prague to attend the 17th CPCZ Congress at the invitation of the CPCZ Central Committee.

The delegation includes Comrade Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Pugo, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian CP; Comrade (Chicherov), member of the CPSU Central Committee, fitters' team-leader at the Turbostroyeniye production association at the Leningrad metal plant; and Comrade Lomakin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador to the CSSR.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Comrade Zaykov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Gustov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, and other officials. Also present was Comrade Cerny, charge d'affaires ad interim of the CSSR to the USSR.

Arrives in Prague

LD230946 Moscow TASS in English 0935 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Prague March 23 TASS -- A CPSU delegation led by Mikhail Solomentsev, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Party Control Committee at the CPSU Central Committee, arrived here today to attend the 17th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Party Central Committee.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Secretary of the Party Central Committee Frantisek Pitra, Chairman of the Central Control and Auditing Commission of the party Jaroslav Hajn, and other officials.

Visits Prague Sights

LD231819 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] A delegation of the CPSU headed by Comrade Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Party Control Committee, arrived in Prague today at the invitation of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee to take part in the work of the 17th CPCZ Congress. Today the delegation visited the national pantheon on Zizkov Hill and laid a wreath at the tomb of Gottwald, an outstanding activist of the international communist and workers movement. A wreath was also laid in the Hall of the Soviet Army in honor of the hero liberators of Czechoslovakia. The members of the delegation also inspected a new line of the Prague metro and visited the Moskovskaya station as well as the sights of the Czechoslovak capital.

SLOVAKIA PARTY CONGRESS OPENS IN BRATISLAVA

PM141231 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Forum of Slovakia's Communists"]

[Text] Bratislava, 13 Mar -- The routine congress of the Communist Party of Slovakia opened here today. Taking part are G. Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the CSSR, and other CPCZ leaders.

The accountability report was delivered by J. Lenart, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and first secretary of the Communist Party of Slovakia Central Committee. He stressed, in particular, that for Czechoslovak Communists, the CPSU, which is mobilizing Soviet people to implement impressive plans for the acceleration and improvement of all the processes of the socialist society's development, is a source of inspiration and experience. The 27th CPSU Congress was a true school of revolutionary theory and practice and the creative application of Marxist-Leninist teaching in modern conditions.

Characterizing the prospects for Slovakia's socioeconomic development in the new 5-year plan and through the year 2000, the speaker noted that the main aim of the Communist Party's strategy is to constantly improve the working people's living standard and more fully satisfy their material and spiritual needs. This can only be achieved through the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and the intensification of production.

Fundamental significance for the successful implementation of the party's economic policy is attached to cooperation with the USSR and the other fraternal countries. The Communists of Slovakia will continue to actively promote the consolidation of the socialist community states' unity and to take part in the implementation of the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress of the CEMA Countries.

A vital problem of today is to prevent nuclear war, promote disarmament, and ensure lasting peace. Lenin's party and the Soviet state are consistently guided in their foreign policy by the principles of peaceful coexistence. Czechoslovak working people have been and always will be supporters of peaceful cooperation and friendship between peoples. In indissoluble unity with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, we look to the future with confidence and optimism, J. Lenart stressed in conclusion.

Husak Addresses Congress

LD141312 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Bratislava March 14 TASS -- The 27th CPSU Congress gave a Marxist-Leninist and science-based answer to new phenomena and issues of the age of ours, became a major contribution to the development of the theory and practice of building socialism, indicated ways and means of further upward movement, said Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee and president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, addressing a regular congress of the Communist Party of Slovakia here.

He emphasized that the results of the work of the highest forum of the Soviet Communists transcend by far the framework of the U.S.S.R. and directly concern Czechoslovakia and all socialist countries. The CPSU accumulated the richest experience in building socialism and is now blazing the trail to upgrade it.

The significance of the congress is immense also for the communist and revolutionary working class movement and the national-liberation struggle of the peoples of our globe.

The decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress are vastly important for the peoples' struggle for peace. For the first time in its history mankind witnessed the advancement of such comprehensive proposals on eliminating nuclear weapons, preventing outer space militarization and gradually limiting all types of weapons, which are contained in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev. These initiatives win support of wide sections of the world public.

The Czechoslovak Communists fully support the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, which are a source of knowledge and experience for them and furnish the answer to the urgent problems of our times, the Czechoslovak leader said.

CSSR MISSION TO UN PROTESTS STAFFING CUTS

LD192122 Moscow TASS in English 1935 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 19 TASS -- The permanent mission of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations sent a note of protest to the United States mission to the United Nations. The note says that the threat on the part of the United States to impose on the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic restrictions on the number of the personnel of the latter's permanent mission to the United Nations is incompatible with the agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the headquarters of the United Nations of 1947 and the convention on privileges and immunities of the United Nations of 1946. The size of the permanent mission of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations is a matter fully within the competence of the Czechoslovak Government.

The note stresses that the above-mentioned documents do not give the United States the right to interfere in the authority of other United Nations member states or in their relations to the United Nations. By taking arbitrary steps, the United States Government is flagrantly violating its obligations to create the necessary conditions for the normal activities of the United Nations and for unimpeded participation of the member states of the organization in its work.

After the restriction of travel of the members of the Czechoslovak permanent mission in New York at the beginning of this year, the latest manifestation of pressure by the United States is regarded by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as yet another purposeful hostile act developing into a lasting discriminatory trend toward a certain group of United Nations member states that is substantially impeding the discharge of the duties of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the United Nations and aims at creating an atmosphere of intimidation also in relation to other members of the United Nations.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic protests against attempts by any United Nations member state to influence the interplay of forces in the United Nations and the organization's activities. The present confrontational approaches by the United States cannot serve the fulfillment of the most important task of the United Nations -- to preserve peace and security in the world and to promote the development of harmonious relations among states.

The text of Czechoslovakia's note of protest has also been handed over to the United Nations secretary general.

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS IN MOSCOW

Voronin Receives Marjai

PM191017 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talk Held"]

[Text] On 17 March, L.A. Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosnab, received J. Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers.

Some questions of Soviet-Hungarian scientific, technical, and economic cooperation were examined during the talk, which proceeded in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Agro-Industrial Ties Discussed

PM191354 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Cooperation Issues Discussed"]

[Text] V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, received J. Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, 18 March.

A number of issues concerning Soviet-Hungarian cooperation in the development of the agro-industrial complex were discussed.

MTI Report

LD191637 Budapest MTI in English 1455 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 19 (MTI) -- Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, permanent representative of Hungary in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and chairman of the Hungarian section of the Hungarian-Soviet Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic and Technical-Scientific Cooperation, held bilateral talks about timely issues of Hungarian-Soviet economic relations, the major tasks related to developing them and the targets to be realized in the first year of the five-year plan cycle.

He coordinated the tasks until the summer session of the Hungarian-Soviet Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic and Technical-Scientific Cooperation. Jozsef Marjai attended the working meeting of permanent representatives of the CMEA member states in Moscow.

Jozsef Marjai held talks with Vsevolod Murahovskiy, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union and chairman of the State Committee for Agricultural Industry, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Antonov, chairman of the Soviet section of the Soviet-Hungarian Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic and Technical-Scientific Cooperation, Deputy Prime Minister Guriy Marchuk, chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, Deputy Prime Minister Boris Shcherbina, Deputy Prime Minister Lev Voronin, chairman of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, and Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and other Soviet officials.

LIZICHEV, HUNGARY'S GENERAL SZABO HOLD TALKS

PM171000 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 86 Second Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Talks Held"]

[Text] Major General E. Szabo, chief of the Hungarian People's Army Agitation and Propaganda Directorate and deputy chief of the Hungarian People's Army Political Main Directorate, was in Moscow 13-14 March at the invitation of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

Comrade E. Szabo was received by Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. A meeting was also held with Lieutenant General D.A. Volkogonov, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

The talks, which were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, discussed questions of the further strengthening of cooperation between the political organs of the two fraternal armies. Maj Gen E. Szabo was familiarized with the broad range of measures being taken in the Army and Navy to implement the historic decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS LCY SESSION ON CPSU CONGRESS

PM211547 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading: "For the Sake of the World's Future"]

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Mar -- A session of the LCY Central Committee Presidium has been held here, at which an information report by D. Belovski, secretary of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, was heard on the LCY delegation's participation in the work of the 27th CPSU Congress and its meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

It was stressed at the session that cooperation between the LCY and the CPSU, and the SFRY and the USSR is successfully developing. It was noted that the conditions exist for further developing bilateral relations on the basis of jointly determined principles and accords.

MOSCOW MEETING MARKS ALBANIAN CONSTITUTION DAY

PM151551 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Session Held"]

[Text] Expressing the will of Albanian working people, on 14 March 1946 the People's Assembly adopted the Constitution for the new Albania. The Constitution enshrined in legislation the victory of the people's democratic revolution achieved by the people in the selfless national liberation struggle against the fascist aggressors and local reaction.

This noteworthy event was marked by a session of the Soviet-Albanian Friendship Society Central Board held in Moscow 14 March.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON SHULTZ MEETINGS

TASS Views Goals

LD211730 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1021 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, 21 Mar (TASS) -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is leaving today on his latest tour of Western Europe. In the course of his 10-day trip, he will visit France, Greece, Turkey, and Italy. He will also meet the pope in the Vatican.

Although the stop in Paris was planned long before the results of the French elections became known, local observers stress that the talks in this country have now assumed a special significance. As the Western news agencies report, Shultz intends to meet not only the French President F. Mitterrand, but also the country's prime minister, J. Chirac, in order to tell him American "wishes" as to how the United States would like to see French foreign policy under the new government.

Washington is making no secret of the fact that one of the main aims of the trip beyond the ocean by the head of the U.S. State Department is to bring pressure to bear on the governments of two countries which are regarded here as "NATO's southern flank". It is Shultz' task to get them to agree to the further maintenance on their territory of U.S. military bases, which, according to AP, "are considered vitally important for safeguarding U.S. interests in the area of the Mediterranean."

Representatives of the Washington administration stress that the United States is first of all extremely interested in four U.S. bases in Greece which have assumed special importance for the Pentagon in connection with the build-up of provocative military activity round Libya. They provide support for the operations of the U.S. Air Force and Navy in this region.

As far as Turkey is concerned, serious tension exists in its trade and economic relations with Washington. Turkey's deficit in trade with the United States amounts to \$700 million, and it would like to ensure greater access for its goods in the U.S. market. U.S. officials, however, have given to understand that Washington will oppose attempts by Turkey to increase deliveries of agricultural and textile products to the United States.

In Rome, talks will take place between the U.S. secretary of state and President F. Cossiga and members of the Italian cabinet. In the view of the observers, Shultz intends to use these meetings in order to get Italy to take an active part in the U.S. "star wars" program. As is known Rome is to make a final decision on this soon.

Visits Mitterrand

LD211917 Moscow TASS in English 1834 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Paris March 21 TASS -- French President Francois Mitterrand met here with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who arrived in Paris on a one-day visit.

Talks With Chirac

LD220023 Moscow TASS in English 2251 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Paris March 21 TASS -- The U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who is staying here on a one-day visit has met with Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. During the meeting they discussed, among other things, the attitude to the Reagan administration's "star wars" program.

TASS Notes Paris Talks

LD221336 Moscow TASS in English 1251 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Paris March 22 TASS -- Talks have been held here between George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, who was on a one-day visit in Paris, and President Francois Mitterrand of France. The U.S. foreign secretary has also met with Jacques Chirac, the new prime minister of France, and Jean-Bernard Raimond, the external relations minister of France.

Washington's emissary has thus been the first foreign figure of a high rank to have held talks with the French leaders after the elections to the National Assembly on March 16, in the conditions that the Socialist president is now confronted by a right-wing government. George Shultz said that his talks did not concern problems pertaining to the functioning of the French leadership and division of powers between the head of state and the prime minister. At the same time he stressed that the USA has a stake in maintaining close cooperation with France.

The press reports that the talks George Shultz held with Francois Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac covered East-West relations, the disarmament problems and preparations for the summit meeting the seven major capitalist countries scheduled to hold in Tokyo in May. The U.S. secretary of state devoted a special place to "explaining" Washington's policy vis-a-vis Nicaragua. The sides have also discussed the returns of the referendum in Spain on the question of that country's membership in NATO. The sides at the talks have expressed satisfaction with the fact that Spain will remain a member of the North Atlantic alliance.

George Shultz insisted on the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation in combatting international terrorism. In his turn, Jacques Chirac stressed that France might be interested in its participation in the efforts headed by the USA against terrorism.

At the same time the French-American talks have brought to light differences in the field of the trade policy, in particular questions pertaining to farm produce exports. The USA is worried by France's intention to step up subsidies to its agriculture, thus contributing to an increase in export from the Common Market to the detriment of U.S. positions in the world market. George Shultz has left France for Turkey today.

Arrives in Turkey

LD222120 Moscow TASS in English 2017 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Istanbul March 22 TASS -- The U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived here for a visit today in conditions of strict security. He will hold talks with Turkish officials on prolonging for another five years the American-Turkish agreement on cooperation in the sphere of defense. The U.S. hopes to get maximum military political concessions from Turkey in exchange for military-economic aid.

The sides will discuss at the talks, among other things, the rebuilding of U.S. military bases in Turkey. The American side is persistently imposing the idea of the utilization of those bases by the interventionist "rapid deployment corps". Washington also is pressing Turkey to support U.S. actions outside the "NATO zone of responsibility", specifically, in the Middle East.

According to the local press, in the course of the talks G. Shultz is going to devote much attention to the problem of Cyprus. In its proposals the U.S. proceeds from the assumption that the Cyprus problem should be settled within the NATO framework, which cannot bring about a comprehensive settlement of the situation in the island. The main purpose of the U.S. is to consolidate the south-eastern flank of NATO.

REPORTAGE ON NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP SESSION

U.S. Applying 'Crude Pressure'

LD212051 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1031 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Wuerzburg, 21 Mar (TASS) -- Washington's emissaries are resorting to putting crude pressure on their North Atlantic bloc partners at the spring NATO Nuclear Planning Group session in Wuerzburg (FRG). The United States is attempting to drag the Western Europe countries more firmly towards the implementation of the "star wars" program, regarded by the international public as the most dangerous adventure in the cause of peace.

It is characteristic that American General J. Abrahamson, director of the organization for the implementation of the "Strategic Defense Initiative", who has no relation at all to the NATO Nuclear Planning Group, has been given the floor for the propaganda of Washington's plans for militarization of space. The general did not hide the fact that work on creation of the latest weapons systems for utilization in space is already being carried out in the United States. According to Gen Abrahamson, "considerable progress has been achieved primarily in the sphere of development of powerful lasers and new infrared systems". While advertising SDI, Abrahamson has not refrained from anti-Soviet insinuations either, having resorted to the standard claims about "military threat from the East".

The representatives of the United States and England have yet again confirmed that their governments will under no circumstances halt nuclear tests. R. Wagner, assistant to the secretary of defense on nuclear issues, and G. Younger, secretary of defense of Great Britain, have in unison stood up for continuation of underground nuclear explosions, having thus ignored the wide wave of protests both in the United States and in England against the militaristic policy of their governments.

W. Altenburg, Bundeswehr inspector general, has taken up a loyal position in relation to the adventurous course of Washington at the session. Counting on generous orders for the FRG military and industrial complex, he gave full support to the U.S. "star wars" plan.

A report saying the Spanish Government has decided to become a full member of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group has been spread here. Up to now, Spain had observer status.

London 21 Mar (TASS) -- In commenting on the session proceedings in Wuerzburg, FINANCIAL TIMES points out that the United States is calling upon any interested firms to participate in the SDI program, regardless of whether or not there is an accord covering this topic with the corresponding governments. "It is obvious" emphasizes the paper -- that the former anxieties of Western Europe concerning possible consequences of siting of the antimissiles space systems are being preserved.

Group Communique Criticized

LD211853 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Wuerzburg March 21 TASS -- TASS correspondents Vladimir Serov and Sergey Sosnovskiy report: The NATO Nuclear Planning Group ended its spring session, which was held at the level of defense ministers, in Wuerzburg, West Germany, today after adopting a final communique which expressed full support for Washington's militarist policy of fuelling the nuclear arms race. Significantly, the communique passed over in complete silence the Soviet Union's major peace initiatives set forth in the January 15 statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. This was certainly a result of pressure which was exerted on Washington's NATO partners here by Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger and James Abrahamson, the man in charge of the U.S. "Strategic Defense Initiative" project.

They took advantage of the session to try to discredit the Soviet program for abolishing nuclear weapons stage by stage by the year 2000.

The U.S. defense secretary and his West German opposite number Manfred Woerner, the latter clearly taking his cue from the former, made utterly groundless charges of Soviet "violations" of both the SALT-2 Treaty and the ABM agreement. They floated those deliberate lies in a bid to justify the ominous U.S. "star wars" program and its West German-invented supplement, the notorious "European Defense Initiative". It followed from statements by the U.S. and West German defense secretaries at the final news conference that the United States does not at all intend to renounce the idea of militarizing space and is, on the contrary, going to extend the sphere of responsibility of its space arms to cover Western Europe. Woerner endeavored to present the dangerous plan as "meeting the interests of Western Europe".

The final communique, a product of the Pentagon's dictation, voiced support for the U.S. obstructionist stand at arms control talks and rehashed the same old allegations about "a Soviet military threat" and "a Western lag" in nuclear and conventional arms. It fully ignored the exceptionally important initiative of the USSR which has urged the United States to join its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear blasts. Moreover, Weinberger said, when answering newsmen's questions, that his country would continue nuclear testing.

The attendees at the session also expressed content with the "progress" made in converting Western Europe into a launching site for new U.S. first-strike nuclear missile systems. They called for continuing to replace obsolete nuclear warheads with new ones, an operation they claimed was a "peace-making" effort. Commentators saw a sign of persisting disagreements inside the North Atlantic bloc in the fact that the representatives of Greece and Denmark at the session stuck to their own opinions on a number of issues discussed. The latter country, for example, reiterated its reservations about the NATO "dual-track" decision of 1979.

The results of the Wuerzburg meeting of the NATO countries' defense ministers indicate that the military-political bloc is reluctant to display a responsible approach to ensuring peace and security and so is missing the most favorable chances offered by the constructive Soviet blueprint for delivering mankind from the threat of a nuclear catastrophe.

REPORTAGE ON RESULTS OF FRENCH ELECTION

Chirac Receives Congratulations

LD211742 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 21 Mar (TASS) -- The USSR Council of Ministers has congratulated Jacques Chirac, prime minister of the French Republic, on being appointed to that post. The message expresses the conviction that his activity in this high post will further promote the development of cooperation between the Soviet Union and France in the sphere of peace and relaxation of tension, and will work to strengthen the traditional friendship between the Soviet and French people.

Gorbachev Meets Departing Raimond

LD240908 Moscow TASS in English 0859 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today received in the Kremlin Jean-Bernard Raimond, foreign minister in the new French Government who is leaving the post of French ambassador to Moscow.

SHEVARDNADZE, ALGERIAN ENVOY DISCUSS BENDJEDID VISIT

LD221312 Moscow TASS in English 1246 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, today received the ambassador of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic in the USSR Abdelmajid Allahoum at the latter's request. They discussed some questions connected with the forthcoming visit to the USSR by the president of Algeria, General Secretary of the National Liberation Front Chadli Bendjedid. The conversation passed in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere.

SOVIET LEADERS CONGRATULATE IRAN ON NATIONAL HOLIDAY

LD211859 Moscow TASS in English 1847 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has sent a telegram to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the national holiday of Iran -- the day of the revolution. In a reply telegram the president of Iran expressed gratitude for the congratulations and wished happiness and wellbeing to the Soviet people.

On the same occasion the USSR Council of Ministers sent a congratulatory telegram to Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, prime minister of Iran. In his reply telegram the prime minister of Iran thanked the USSR Council of Ministers for the congratulations and expressed hope of the development of good relations between the two countries.

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS EGYPT'S ASWAN DAM

LD222227 Moscow TASS in English 2149 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo March 22 TASS -- A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by the Deputy President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Pavel Gilashviliy which is staying in Egypt arrived in Aswan today. The Soviet guests visited the hydroengineering complex built with the economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union.

Greeting the guests, Salah al-Din Shihab, head of the department of the High Aswan Dam, said that the significance of the gigantic complex on the Nile River and its role in the development of Egyptian economy could not be overestimated. The putting into operation of the dam and the hydroelectric power plant triggered off the rapid development of agriculture, irrigation, energy production and housing construction.

The economic effect of this impressive project was so great that the investment in its construction was repaid in 2.5 years, while in the first decade of its work it brought the country a new profit of 10 billion Egyptian pounds.

During the past six years the water accumulated in the water reservoir of the dam, Lake Nasir, saved Egypt from the severe drought that affected many years. Besides, it will permit to irrigate by the end of the century another 2 million feddans of arid lands (1 feddan is equal to 0.42 hectares). Salah al-Din Shihab emphasized that the hydro-engineering complex continued to play a major part in supplying electricity to cities, mills and factories in Egypt.